

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 INR-09 INRE-00 IGA-02 SR-02 ORM-01 EA-04

EB-05 IO-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SS-07 /099 W

----- 031071

P 271158 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3272

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2264

AIDAC

E. O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: FY 1974 CP

REF: A. STATE 053655

B. VIENTIANE 2180

C. VIENTIANE 1923

D. TOAID A-682 (FY 74 PBS)

1. INFORMATION CONTAINED THIS MESSAGE SUPPLEMENTS RELEVANT SECTIONS OF REFERENCES C AND D. AVERAGE OF 253,000 REFUGEES PER MONTH CITED REF D INCLUDED 94,000 DEPENDENTS IRREGULAR FORCES SUPPORTED BY DOD FUNDING. AID FUNDING LEVELS STATED REF D WERE FOR SUPPORT OF NON- DEPENDENT ELEMENT REFUGEE POPULATION.

2. OUR REVISED ESTIMATES FOR FY 1974 AVERAGE MONTHLY REFUGEE POPULATION REQUIRING ASSISTANCE IS 250,000. THIS ESTIMATE INCLUDES THE 94,000 DEPENDENTS OF FORMER IRREGULARS AND PENDING RESOLUTION OF POLICY QUESTIONS RAISED REF B ASSUMES PER REF A THAT DOD FUNDING WILL CONTINUE THROUGH FY 1974 FOR THESE INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS ANY DEMOBILIZED FORMER IRREGULARS.

3. OUR PROJECTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE CONSIDERING SEVERAL FACTORS; VUOR FJC 1972 - JAN 1973 RICE HARVESTS IS CAUSING HIGHER RETURN REFUGEES REQUIRING FOOD SUPPORT TO ROLLS THAN ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED. THE CONTINUING IMPACT OF THE POOR RICE HARVEST WILL BE REFLECTED IN SOME INCREASE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES RETURNING TO THE ROLLS THROUGH THE END OF CY 1973. DETERIORATING SECURITY CONDI-
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TIONS BEFORE AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEASEFIRE CREATED LARGER NUMBERS OF REFUGEES THAN ANTICIPATED. SINCE JANUARY ABOUT 50,000 (BAN HOU EI SAI 15,000; SARAVANE AREA 14,000; TH HANOI REPORTS OPENING TIES WITH BELGIUM AND ITALY

- HANOI BLASTS UNDERSECRETARY PORTER' S REMARKS

-. MME BINH: MOSCOW BOUND

- LIBERATION RADIO REPORTS CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY FORMER PRISONERS
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- PRICES EDGE UP; CURRENCY RATES DECLINE SHARPLY

- LAST FWMAF FORCES WITHDRAW

I. INTERNAL

A. CEASEFIRE DEVELOPMENTS

AT THE CLOSE OF THE EIGHTH WEEK OF THE CEASEFIRE THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE REMAINED AT A MODERATE LEVEL BUT WITH SHARP ACTION AT SEVERAL POINTS. ENEMY OFFENSIVE ACTIVITY WAS NOTICEABLE AT TONLE CHAM AND RACH BAP IN MR 3 AND HONG NGU AND TRI TON IN MR4. MORE DISTURBING WERE REPORTS OF CONTINUING INFILTRATION OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT FROM THE NORTH AND THE RELOCATION OF SA-2 MISSILES NEAR KHE SANH. THE PREVIOUS DEPRESSING TREND TOWARDS POLARIZATION BETWEEN COMMUNIST AND NON COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS) BECAME MORE EVIDENT. THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS CONTINUED TO ADVANCE A VARIETY OF EXCUSES FOR REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE IN INVESTIGATIONS; IN ADDITION, POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATIONS HAVE EITHER PULLED OUT OF OR REFUSED TO DEPLOY TO SEVERAL SITES ON GROUNDS OF LACK OF SECURITY.

THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC). AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON THE SIZE OF THE CENTRAL TPJMC(240 PERSONNEL EACH), ON TOTAL TPJMC STRENGTH (1200-1500 EACH PARTY), AND TO INAUGURATE THE TPJMC WITH A CEREMONY MAR 29. THE PRG HAS ASSIGNED A MAJOR GENERAL HOANG ANH TUAN AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE TPJMC; HE WAS FLOWN TO SAIGON BY VNAF MAR 23. AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN THE COMPLETION OF SCHEDULED VIETNAMESE POW RELEASES/ RETURNS BY THE GVN, DRV,

AND PRG; AFTER ANOTHER SEREIES OF DELAYS AND UNACCEPTABLE DEMANDS BY THE DRV/ PRG THE LAST PHASE OF RELEASE OF US POW' S HAS BEEN AGREED UPON AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY MAR 29. THERE IS CONTINUING DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE FPJMC FOR A PERIOD OF 20 DAYS BUT THE DRV HAS BEGUN TO REDEPLOY SOME OF ITS PERSONNEL TO HANOI AND HAS REQUESTED THE US TO PROVIDE AIRLIFT FOR THE REMAINDER BEFORE MARCH 31.

B. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO BEGIN REGULAR SESSION
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THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1973 WILL OPEN MONDAY APRIL2. THE SESSION WILL LAST UNTIL THE END OF JUNE. (THERE ARE TWO REGULAR SESSIONS EACH YEAR, THE FIRST APRIL JUNE AND THE SECOND OCT DEC. ALL DEBATES AT OTHER TIMES ARE EXTRAORDINARY SESSIONS.) THE MAIN ITEM OF PENDING LEGISLATION IS THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION BILL PASSED BY THE LOWER HOUSE LAST JANUARY AND AWAITING UPPER HOUSE ACTION. THE UPPER HOUSE MUST ALSO CONSIDER THE LONG STANDING QUESTION OF AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS.

COMMENT: WITH THE ASSEMBLYIN SESSION THE OPPOSITION MEMBERS WILL PROBABLY BE MORE CONSISTENTLY VOCAL THAN THEY' VE BEEN RECENTLY. UNHAPPINESS OVER THE ASSEMBLY' S DECLINING ROLE IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS MAY SURFACE.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI02264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730339/aaaaijbh.tel
Line Count: 151
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 053655, 73 VIENTIANE 2180, 73 VIENTIANE 1923
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 27 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <20-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980102
Subject: FY 1974 CP
TAGS: EAID, n/a
To: AID
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005